

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY RABAT

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (CAP TOSEC 69 OMITTED)

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO BRUSSELS EC BRUSSELS
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5 NOVEMBER REPEATED

QTE C O N F I D E N T I A L DUBLIN 1476

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EEC, XF, EI

SUBJ: IRISH FOREIGN MINISTER'S VIEWS ON THE MIDDLE EAST

1. FOREIGN MINISTER FITZGERALD EXPRESSED CONCERN TO CHARGE
DURING SOCIAL ENCOUNTER NOVEMBER 2 THAT THE USG WILL NOT BRING
SUFFICIENT PRESSURE ON ISRAELIS TO FORCE WITHDRAWAL TO POSITIONS
HELD OCTOBER 22. NOTING THAT IRELAND WILL HAVE SOME 240 TROOPS
IN BETWEEN THESE OPPOSING FORCES--TROOPS WHICH HE SAID WERE
URGENTLY NEEDED AT HOME BECAUSE OF A SERIOUS SECURITY PROBLEM WITH
THE IRA -- FITZGERALD STOUTLY ARGUED THAT THE USG HAD SERIOUSLY
ERRED IN "PERMITTING" THE ISRAELIS TO ACHIEVE A SIGNIFICANT
VICTORY BECAUSE IT WOULD MAKE THEM LESS LIKELY TO MAKE THE
LONGER TERM CONCESSIONS NECESSARY TO BRING A DURABLE PEACE TO
THE AREA.

2. CHARACTERIZING THE ISRAELIS AS "AGRESSORS," FITZGERALD SAID
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IT WAS IMPERATIVE THAT THE USG IN ITS OWN INTEREST NOW DO "WHAT-

EVER WAS NECESSARY" TO FORCE THE ISRAELIS TO MAKE CONCESSIONS. THE TENSIONS ALREADY GENERATED BETWEEN THE U.S. AND EUROPE ON THIS ISSUE WERE SEVERE. CONTINUED U.S. SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL WITHOUT FORCING A SETTLEMENT, OR AT LEAST WITHOUT FORCING ISRAELI CONCESSIONS THAT WOULD BE RECOGNIZED AS A GENUINE ATTEMPT TO SETTLE, WOULD COST THE U.S. HEAVILY IN EUROPE. IN THE LONGER TERM, WITHOUT SUCH A SETTLEMENT FITZGERALD PREDICTED OUR "UNQUALIFIED" SUPPORT OF ISRAEL WOULD ALTER THE WHOLE STRUCTURE OF OUR RELATIONS, AND HE ASKED WHETHER WE HAD SERIOUSLY THOUGHT ABOUT THIS.

3. AS ALWAYS, FITZGERALD'S PRESENTATION WAS SPIRITED BUT PERSONALLY FRIENDLY. DRAWING ON BACKGROUND SUPPLIED BY DEPT, CHARGE REVIEWED SITUATION THAT FORCED US TO RESUPPLY THE ISRAELIS AND SAID THAT OUR INFLUENCE OVER THE SITUATION WAS MORE LIMITED THAN THE MINISTER SEEMED TO APPRECIATE. AS TO THE DANGERS OF NOT ACHIEVING A DURABLE SETTLEMENT, CHARGE SAID THAT IT WAS TO ENCOURAGE THE ARABAS AND ISRAELIS IN THE SEARCH FOR SUCH A SETTLEMENT THAT TALKS HAD BEEN GOING ON IN WASHINGTON AND THE SECRETARY WAS FLYING TO CAIRO AND OTHER ARAB CAPITALS.

4. COMMENT: IRISH ATTITUDES TOWARD THE MIDDLE EAST ARE MARKEDLY PRO-ARAB, AND THERE IS LITTLE, IF ANY, SYMPATHY FOR ISRAEL. ITS POSITION IN THE MIDDLE EAST IS COMPARED IN THE IRISH MIND TO AN INTRUSION OF FOREIGN POWER IN IRELAND.

IN THE SHORT RUN THERE WILL BE LITTLE WE CAN DO TO CHANGE THESE VIEWS BEYOND KEEPING THE GOVERNMENT COMPLETELY INFORMED. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE ESPECIALLY USEFUL IF WE COULD BRIEF FITZGERALD ON THE LARGER SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS OUTLINED IN THE DEPARTMENT'S 217489. THIS WOULD EDUCATE HIM TO THE CONCERNS THAT AFFECT OUR RELATIONS WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF THE EC AND COULD HELP TO DRAW THE IRISH INTO BEING MORE AWARE OF STRATEGIC PROBLEMS. SORENSON UNQTE RUSH

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